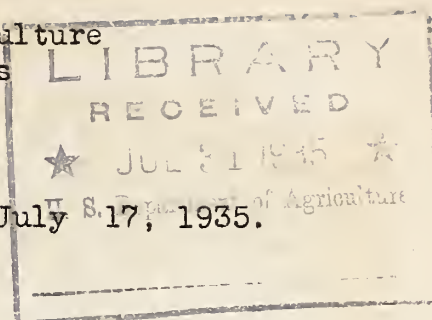


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FOREIGN NEWS ON FRUIT

Fruit Crop Prospects and Export Outlook<sup>1</sup>

The supply of fresh apples available for export from the principal exporting countries during the 1935-36 apple season will be larger than last season, primarily because of the larger North American crop. Pear exports, most of which come from the United States, will probably not be as heavy as in the 1934-35 season. The heavy frosts in Europe this spring did severe damage to fruit crops, particularly stone fruits and berries. Pears were also injured somewhat but, except in England, damage to apples was not as serious as earlier reports indicated.

From the demand side conditions are probably little better than at this time last year. Practically all importing countries continue to maintain trade barriers in the form of high duties, import quotas and licenses, exchange restrictions, quarantine regulations, embargoes, etc. Any improvement in business conditions means little in those countries where the trade is artificially controlled. The only important importing country which does not fall in this category is the United Kingdom. Of the other European countries, Belgium and Sweden have the least drastic import regulations. Business activity in all three is better than at this time last year. The trade agreements concluded by the United States with Belgium and Sweden should aid somewhat the exports of apples and pears to those countries.

In considering the competitive importance to be attached to the size of the apple and pear crops in Europe a differentiation has to be made between the kinds raised. Although large quantities of apples and pears are produced, the bulk of the fruit cannot be considered competitive with American apples and pears because of its lower quality and different uses. European apples and pears are used for three main purposes; cider, cooking and dessert. Cider and cooking apples and pears are produced in large quantities in many European countries. Such fruit differs from dessert apples in that little attention is given to the trees, with the result that the fruit is of low quality. Production of dessert apples and pears is not heavy. The outturn of dessert fruit this season is expected to be below average. This finer quality fruit offers more competition to American-imported fruit than the apples and pears fit only for cider or culinary purposes.

The outlook for imports of American apples and pears, from the standpoint of the principal importing countries, varies from country to country, depending upon the size of domestic crops and competing crops in nearby countries, business conditions and trade barriers. There should be a somewhat better market in the United Kingdom this season than in 1934-35 because of the small domestic crops and somewhat improved demand conditions. France also expects small crops but will probably receive larger imports from Switzerland and other nearby countries than last year. The amount of apples and pears imported will depend on the size of the quotas allotted. There seems to be no reason to believe the outlet will not be as good as last year. Germany is expected to be practically closed to American apples and pears until after December 1. Even after that date it is questionable whether a sufficient quantity of exchange will be made available for fruit imports to absorb anything like the customary quantity of American apples and pears that have found a market there in seasons prior to 1934-35.

The Netherlands and Belgium both expect good apple crops and fairly good pear crops. Since these two countries are exporters as well as importers, it can be expected that neither will import as much American fruit for home consumption as in years of smaller crops and that their exports will reduce somewhat the takings of United States fruit by nearby countries such as Germany and France.

Apple and pear crops are reported to be better than usual in the Scandinavian countries. Production of fruit in these countries is not heavy enough to provide any important surplus for export but it does displace American fruit, particularly early in the season.

The condition of deciduous fruit crops in the principal producing countries of the world is summarized in the following table.

Deciduous Fruit Crop Prospects as of July, With Special  
Reference to Dessert Fruit in the Principal producing  
countries

| Country :               | Apples :                | Pears :                | Plums :                | Other :<br>stone fruits : | Berries :             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Importing</u> :      | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| <u>countries:</u> :     | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| England .. :            | <u>1</u> /Poor to fair: | Poor                   | <u>2</u> /Bad          | Bad                       | <u>2</u> /Bad to fair |
| Scotland.. :            | Bad                     | Bad                    | Bad                    | Bad                       | Poor                  |
| Germany .. :            | <u>3</u> /Good          | <u>3</u> /Fairly good: | <u>2</u> /Fairly good  | Poor                      | <u>2</u> /Fair        |
| France ... :            | <u>3</u> /Fair          | <u>1</u> /Below aver.: | -                      | <u>2</u> /Fair            | <u>2</u> /Fair        |
| Sweden ... :            | Average                 | Good                   | -                      | -                         | -                     |
| Norway ... :            | Good                    | Good                   | -                      | Good                      | -                     |
| Denmark .. :            | Fairly good             | Good                   | Fair                   | Fair                      | -                     |
| Poland ... :            | Fair                    | Poor                   | Poor                   | Poor                      | -                     |
| <u>Importing</u> :      | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| <u>&amp; exporting:</u> | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| <u>countries:</u> :     | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| Netherlands:            | <u>1</u> /Good          | <u>1</u> /Satisfactory | <u>2</u> /Fairly good: | <u>2</u> /Fair            | <u>2</u> /Very fair   |
| Belgium .. :            | <u>3</u> /Good          | <u>1</u> /Fairly good: | <u>2</u> /Fair         | <u>2</u> /Fair            | Fair                  |
| <u>Exporting</u> :      | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| <u>countries</u> :      | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| United :                | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| States ... :            | <u>4</u> /Good          | <u>4</u> /About aver.: | <u>5</u> /Fairly good  | <u>5</u> /Fairly good     | <u>5</u> /Average     |
| Canada ... :            | <u>1</u> /Fairly good   | <u>6</u> /Fairly good: | Good                   | Good                      | <u>2</u> /Good        |
| Italy .... :            | <u>1</u> /Fair          | <u>1</u> /Fairly good: | <u>2</u> /Fair         | <u>2</u> /Poor            | -                     |
| Austria .. :            | <u>1</u> /Fairly good   | Fair                   | Fair                   | Poor                      | Fairly good           |
| Switzerland:            | <u>1</u> /Good          | <u>3</u> /Fairly good: | Fairly good            | Fair                      | -                     |
| Czechoslo-              | :                       | :                      | :                      | :                         | :                     |
| vakia .... :            | Very good               | Good                   | Fair                   | Poor                      | Fair                  |
| Yugoslavia :            | Fairly good             | Average                | <u>7</u> /Fairly good: | Average                   | -                     |
| Rumania .. :            | Fair                    | Fair                   | <u>7</u> /Poor         | Fair                      | -                     |
| Hungary .. :            | Fair                    | Fair                   | Fair                   | Poor                      | -                     |

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from information received from its Berlin, Paris, London, and Belgrade offices; from the Fruit Intelligence Notes of the Imperial Economic Committee; and from official sources.

1/ Important crop, including a fairly large production of table fruit and consequently offering considerable competition to United States apples and pears.

2/ Important crop but only indirectly competitive to United States exports of fruit.

3/ Important crop but mostly cooking and cider fruit, dessert production not very important.

4/ Chief source of world export-surplus.

5/ Not important as regards exports in the fresh state.

6/ An increasing but not large export-surplus.

7/ Important export surplus of both fresh and dried prunes.

